

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image compression device comprising:
an encoding unit performing predictive coding of an input
video sequence having a plurality of frames;
a first unit leaving first frames at predetermined intervals
10 in the input video sequence to cause the encoding unit to
perform predictive coding of the first frames;
a second unit discarding second frames, which lie between
two of the first frames in the input video sequence, to cause the
encoding unit to skip each second frame and perform predictive
15 coding of a corresponding one of the first frames immediately
preceding the second frame; and
an output unit outputting only encoded data of the first
frames created by the encoding unit in association with the first
unit as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video
20 sequence.

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2. The image compression device according to claim 1
wherein the first frames that are left are either intra-coded
pictures or predictive-coded pictures contained in the input
video sequence, and the second frames which are discarded are
predictive-coded pictures contained in the input video sequence.

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3. The image compression device according to claim 1
35 wherein the encoded data of the first frames created by the
encoding unit is stored in a storage device having a

predetermined storage capacity as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

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4. The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoding unit, the first unit, the second unit and the output unit are arranged in an MPEG2 encoder.

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5. The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoding unit and the output unit are arranged in an MPEG2 encoder, and the first unit and the second unit are arranged in an external control unit connected to the MPEG2 encoder.

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6. An image compression method comprising the steps of:
leaving first frames at predetermined intervals in an input video sequence having a plurality of frames to cause an encoding unit to perform predictive coding of the first frames, said encoding unit performing predictive coding of the input video sequence;

discarding second frames, which lie between two of the first frames in the input video sequence, to cause the encoding unit to skip each second frame and perform predictive coding of a corresponding one of the first frames immediately preceding the second frame; and

outputting only encoded data of the first frames created by the encoding unit in association with the leaving step as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

7. The image compression method according to claim 6
wherein the first frames that are left are either intra-coded
pictures or predictive-coded pictures contained in the input
video sequence, and the second frames which are discarded are
5 predictive-coded pictures contained in the input video sequence.

10 8. The image compression device according to claim 6
wherein the encoded data of the first frames created by the
encoding unit is stored in a storage device having a
predetermined storage capacity as a result of the predictive
coding of the entire input video sequence.

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9. The image compression method according to claim 6
20 wherein the encoding unit is arranged in an MPEG2 encoder, and
the MPEG2 encoder performs the predictive coding, the leaving
step, the discarding step and the outputting step.

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10. The image compression method according to claim 6
wherein the encoding unit is arranged in an MPEG2 encoder so
that the MPEG2 encoder performs the predictive coding and the
30 outputting step, and an external control unit connected to the
MPEG2 encoder is arranged so that the external control unit
performs the leaving step and the discarding step.

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